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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of	:	
Harold Douglas Foster	:	
Application No. 10/600,028	:	DECISION ON PETITION
Filed: June 23, 2003	:	UNDER 37 CFR 1.78(a)(6)
Attorney Docket No. HMT01/3619/US	:	

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(6), filed May 6, 2008, to accept an unintentionally delayed claim under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) for the benefit of priority to a prior-filed provisional application.

The petition is **DISMISSED**.

A petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(6) is only applicable to those applications filed on or after November 29, 2000. Further, the petition is appropriate only after expiration of the period specified in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(5)(ii) and must be filed during the pendency of the nonprovisional application. In addition, the petition must be accompanied by:

- (1) the reference required by 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(5)(i) to the prior-filed application, unless previously submitted;
- (2) the surcharge set forth in § 1.17(t); and
- (3) a statement that the entire delay between the date the claim was due under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(5)(ii) and the date the claim was filed was unintentional. The Director may require additional information where there is a question whether the delay was unintentional.

The petition does not comply with item (1) above.

The "amendment" submitted with the petition is unacceptable as drafted and, therefore, is not considered a proper reference under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(i). In this regard, the amendment is physically part of the instant petition and, as such, does not comply with 37 CFR 1.121, 1.52, or 1.4(c). Note that 37 CFR 1.121 states that amendments are made by filing a paper, in compliance with § 1.52, directing that specified amendments be made. The pertinent section of 37 CFR 1.52

states that the claim (in this case, the claim for priority), must commence on a separate physical sheet. 37 CFR 1.4(c) states that each distinct subject must be contained in a separate paper since different matters may be considered by different branches of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Accordingly, before the petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(6) can be granted, a renewed petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(6) and either an Application Data Sheet or an appropriate amendment is required.

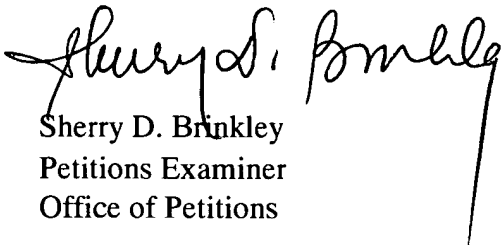
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Any questions concerning this matter may be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3204.


Sherry D. Brinkley
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions